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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/722,390

11/28/2003

Ik Kun Kwon

K-0579

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7590

03/08/2007

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EXAMINER

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/722;390

Applicant(s)

KWON, IK KUN

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-11 and 14-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-10 and 14-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Applicant's Arguments / Amendments

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 11/29/06. Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-27 are pending. Claims 2-3 and 12-13 have been canceled and claims 21-27 have been added. Claims 1,4-5, 9-11, 14-15, 17, and 19-20 have been amended. Applicant's arguments have been considered, but are not fully persuasive. Thus, claims 1 and 4 are finally rejected for the reasons of record. Allowable subject matter in claims 4-10 and 14-27 is indicated herein.

Specification Objections

Objections over claims 1 and 11 have been overcome due to applicant's amendments to the claims filed 11/29/06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph rejections over claims 1-16 have been overcome due to applicant's amendments filed 11/29/06 specifically stating "a hook configured to be rotatably coupled to the shaft and having a head configured to penetrate the doorframe to be externally exposed".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (US Patent No. 3,603,631).

White teaches a push release latch particularly adapted for use on appliance cabinets, which reads on applicant's claim for a washing machine. White's push release latch having a projecting portion 29 which reads on applicant's claim for a hook; a coil spring 49 which reads on applicant's claim for an elastic member; spring slip follower 50 and end 43 which reads on applicant's claim for a pair of supporters; and walls 17, 18 which read on applicant claims for an inner and outer frame. White illustrates the projection portion 29 penetrating the doorframe such that it is exposed. As seen by Figures 1 and 3, the projecting portion 29 of White extends outward from a first wall, meanwhile the lock mechanisms controlling the projection portion 29 is formed within a so-called first wall and a second wall, the second wall being the outer wall of the washing machine. Moreover, White illustrates a washing machine in Figure 1, the washing machine includes a cabinet, tub, drum, and door assembly. The projection portion 29 is formed perpendicular to the doorframe and is illustrated to connect to the door frame in an undisclosed manner by White regarding its penetration through the door, but it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to form such a projection portion into the wall such that it penetrates through the doorframe as a design choice in providing increased reinforcement for said springs and supporters formed thereon. The projection portion is characterized by its ability to connect internal and external components of such a push latch, in operational function with one another, thus one skilled in the art would find it an obvious design choice to expressly form the shaft-like portion through the doorframe. Obvious choice in design was held to have been obvious. *Concrete Unlimited Inc. v. Cementcraft Inc.* 227 USPQ 784 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Kuhle* 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-27 are allowed.

Claims 4-10 and 14-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In claims 4, 14, and 21 applicant discloses stoppers configured to extend from an inside of the doorframe and prevent the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters; White fails to teach or disclose motivation to include stoppers for preventing the shaft from being separated from the pair of supporters. Additionally, in claims 9, 19 and 26, applicant discloses a grip having one end rotatably connected to the shaft and the other end externally exposed, wherein the one end elastically turns the hook if the

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other end moves; White fails to teach or disclose motivation for including a such a grip that has two ends.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Price et al. (US Patent No. 5,630,630) teaches a latch mechanism with a shank assembly 94 held in place by flanges 78 and 82; about the body of the shank 94 is spring 60. Price further discloses an assembly of the hook portion 54 and latch handle 12, wherein the hook portion 12 penetrates the doorframe.

Ostdiek et al. (US Patent No. 6,036,241) teaches a locking mechanism for an appliance door which has a locking shaft 132, a locking element 114, a tab 40, compression spring 130, an abutment plate 138, and a plate spring 156.

Additionally, Sandhu et al. teaches a latch mechanism for vehicle glove boxes or the like having a spring 26, end of axle member 3, a pivotable handle member 22, a locator stump member 52, and a door 12.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

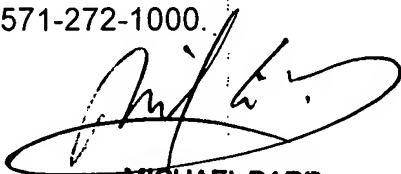
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



rrp



MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER